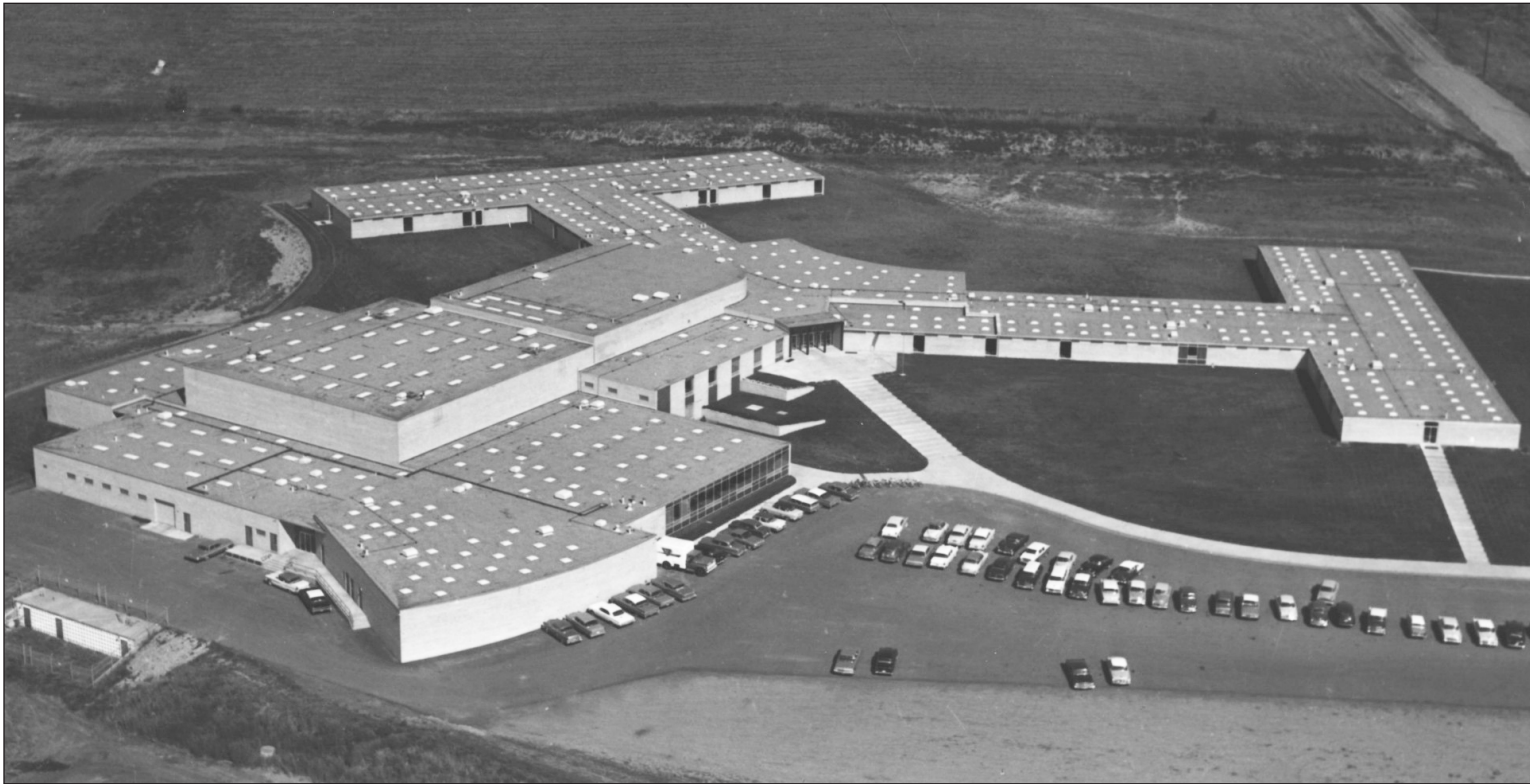


# THE SCROLL

FEBRUARY 2, 2017

O'GORMAN HIGH SCHOOL | SIOUX FALLS, SOUTH DAKOTA

VOLUME 53, ISSUE 4



A LOOK BACK. The original O'Gorman High School stands alone in the undeveloped southwest side of Sioux Falls in the early 1960s. This year, 2017, marks 10 years since construction began on the new school building. See pages 4-5 for more on the construction project.

## Trump takes oath of office to become President

Nicolette Boyum  
Co-Editor

On Friday, Jan. 20, Donald J. Trump was sworn in as the 45th President of the United States.

Trump first announced his run for office in June of 2015. Since then he's made headlines across the nation throughout the primary process and with his surprise general election victory in November.

In December, Trump and his team struggled to find performers for his inauguration. From Elton John to Kanye West, artist after artist turned down the prestigious offer.

Jackie Evancho, a 16 year old *America's Got Talent* star, was announced as singer of the national anthem while the Rockettes and the Mormon Tabernacle Choir were the only two other known performers.

Some of the Rockettes spoke out against the inauguration, stating a group of women who work to promote empowerment and equality shouldn't be performing for Trump, who has made repeated controversial comments directed towards women.

President Trump has vowed to build a Mexican border wall as well as repeal the Affordable Care Act.

## School to purchase Chromebooks with earnings from magazine sales

Max Stenson  
Co-Editor

O'Gorman High School's annual Knight Drive came to an end during the last week of November.

O'Gorman did very well raising funds this year despite major changes being made.

"The numbers are not finalized yet, but the gross revenue made by the school was \$75,000,

which is \$7,000 more than last year's Knight Drive," principal Kyle Groos said.

The changes did have an impact on the advisory goals. "We tried to streamline things, but that made it more difficult to reach individual goals," said Knight Drive adviser Ms. Michelle Shields. "If we could go back, we would change some things. The changes were designed to improve the Knight Drive, but there were un-

intentional consequences of the changes."

O'Gorman has always had great success with the fundraiser, and there are many reasons why this year raised so much money.

"Solidarity is what makes the Knight Drive so successful," Shields said. "Also, the ability for students to sell items online rather than in person makes it easier to raise money."

Students enjoy the Knight

Drive as well.

"I like how we can raise a lot of money for the school while having fun at the same time," senior David Walgenbach said. "It is a great way for the school to receive funds."

O'Gorman High School would like to thank Beef O Brady's and Carnaval Brazilian Grill for generously providing free meals to numerous advisories as a reward for the fundraising efforts.

## School embraces new, diverse students

Lauren Kouri  
Staff Writer

From new students to the International Club, O'Gorman High School is becoming more ethnically and culturally diverse each year.

"O'Gorman is different because it offers a lot better education and a much more positive atmosphere," said freshman Maddie Christensen. "I decided to come to O'Gorman for a better education and faith-based learning. I am so happy that I made the switch and I am excited for the future."

Mr. Chad LeBrun first started as the International Club co-advisor three years ago, when he came to the high school full time. Frau Kristin Kuchenbecker is the

other club advisor.

One Wednesday out of each month, the international students give presentations about their home countries. These presentations can vary from food to school, cities, population, holidays, sports, national anthem, flag, history, geography, and wildlife of their home country.

In other meetings, students have played games, danced, and cooked food. All O'Gorman students are invited to attend these meetings. Information about dates and times of the International Club can be found on Mr. LeBrun's board or in the announcements.

This semester there are seven new international students at O'Gorman High School. These students are from China, South

Korea, Germany, and Chile. Including the new and returning students, there are 22 international students that attend O'Gorman High School.

"The international club and international students add so much extra to the school by giving our traditional O'Gorman students the opportunity to learn from a first-hand source about other places and language from around the globe that they would otherwise only get to talk about in their classes," said LeBrun. "The international students literally contribute to the world-class education at O'Gorman here in Sioux Falls."

Each fall semester, LeBrun teaches U.S. Language and Culture the new international students. This class helps the stu-

dents become oriented to their new environment, helps them with their classes, and helps them with their English skills.

Although the International Club is a big part of O'Gorman's ethnical and cultural diversity, many new students have joined the school system this year.

Maddie Roemen is very pleased with what she has experienced so far this year at O'Gorman High School. "The teachers are a lot different and are wanting to help you succeed more than my old school ever did," said Roemen. "They are always willing to help you with any questions you have and hate to watch you struggle."

Shayla Shaver said transferring to O'Gorman was always a part of her dad's plan. "My

dad went to O'Gorman and he made both my older sister and I transfer because he likes how it's a family based school and the academics are much better than public schools," said Shaver. "At O'Gorman they expect more from you and everyone tries their hardest at O'Gorman to succeed. I like how everyone knows each other - it reminds of a family."

"O'Gorman is different because they are stricter about our school work, in a good way, and I love that O'Gorman incorporates our faith into our education. I decided to transfer to O'Gorman because I had been hearing very good things about O'Gorman's education, and I wanted to ensure that my high school experience would be a good one," said Megan Gusso.

# Students, staff stress importance of unity with nun’s retirement

David Berman  
Staff Writer

As students arrived at school for the start of the fall semester, they may have noticed a considerable hole that had opened in the faith wing. For the first time in the history of the school, O’Gorman is without a nun.

The retirement of Sister Kathryn Easley after last school year left the school without a nun on campus, which is quite a change for students.

Sister Kathryn had been working at O’Gorman for 18 years, and had been a part of the Sioux Falls Catholic School System for 30 years.

“Sr. Kathryn was a saint among us, and we must follow in her footsteps,” said Ms. Michelle Shields, who took over as head of the theology department upon Sr. Kathryn’s retirement. Her duties at O’Gorman consisted of conducting morning prayer and being a faith guide for the students.

Shields expressed how important it is to continue to grow in faith by following Sr. Kathryn’s example. “As an O’Gorman family, we must continue to attend morning prayer and daily Mass, and take care of each other like she took care of us.”

Although the school is now without a resident nun, Shields

wants students to know that they still can feel the effects of Sr. Katherine. “Her presence is still here, and she left us in a very strong place when it comes to our faith.”

Students have missed having the model of faith that nuns have provided at O’Gorman for many years. Senior Luke Fleck is among those disappointed that there is not a nun on campus for the first time. “Having that extra source of faith and wisdom in our school was a very beneficial thing,” Fleck said. “I definitely miss having Sr. Kathryn down in the faith wing.”

Junior Michael Kovash, a member of the Campus Ministry Core Team, also stressed how important it is for us to come together as a faith family to fill that gap. “As a community, we have to learn to cultivate our faith from within the student body now that we no longer have that constant living example in our midst,” Kovash said. “The example must now come from the other students and teachers.”



Sr. Kathryn Easley

# Giving Back

## Service seen as integral part of mission for students, school

Taylor Houston  
Staff Writer

For years O’Gorman High School has been creating a positive image. This image is not just created by ACT scores, sports, or theater, but how students have represented themselves in the community.

Throughout the past eight years at O’Gorman, ten hours of Christian service have been required for all students in theology. Along with that, seniors are also offered a service class; within the class students are allowed to leave the building to attend sites that need assistance.

“We have so many opportunities for students to get involved,” said Campus Ministry director Mr. Jon Konz. “I personally like the tasks where students are directly involved with the community.”

Even though it may seem that the school is pushing their students to be active in the community, many of the students are openly involved and go beyond the ten hours required of them.

“As a Catholic, I feel that I have an obligation to the community, I’ve been blessed with

so much that it’s important to give back as much as I can,” said Campus Ministry member Ali North.

While O’Gorman is a Catholic school, many students are another religion, Christian or otherwise. These students are required to take a theology class

smile,” said Theology Chair Ms. Michelle Shields.

O’Gorman students are required to get these hours, but the way they act while working for them is up to them as an individual.

Every person who walks through the doors of the school makes an impact on those in the community. Directly or indirectly, the 766 students have the power to impact someone’s life.

For example, the entire school participates in the Bishop Dudley Hospitality House (BDHH) project. While some students might see the Advent project as a reason to have shorter classes or have fun with decorating, those who are sleeping on cots night after night in the Bishop Dudley Hospitality House see it as a sign of hope.

“We encourage every student to get involved, we push this for them, so they can live out their baptismal vows and find an activity they otherwise may not have found,” said Shields.

Throughout the school year, students help with a variety of projects. During Lent, students serve the Empty Bowls soup supper with proceeds going to local charities.

“We have so many opportunities for students to get involved.”

-Mr. Jon Konz

as a freshman, so it is not just Catholics that make the positive representation O’Gorman has.

Many sites that the students volunteer at are unique, and many of them do not even allow teenage volunteers, unless they are O’Gorman students.

“Our community knows how responsible these students are - they are trustworthy, and honorable. I get so many letters saying how thankful people are for our students. It’s because we are willing to work with a

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### Letters to the Editor

All letters should be short and concise. The writer should include a name and contact information. All letters are subject to editing for grammar, conventions and length.

### Editorial Policy

All editorials are the sole opinion of the writer and do not necessarily represent the beliefs of the O’Gorman faculty, administration or the Knight Scroll.

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SUBMITTED PHOTO

One Act cast members rehearse a scene. The State One Act Festival will be in Aberdeen Feb. 2-4.

## Cast, crew finalize show

Rebecca Clark  
Staff Writer

This year the One Act competition will be hosted in Aberdeen. The One Act competition is a three day event with 45 schools all around South Dakota competing.

This year O’Gorman will be doing a drama. The drama represents a “moral dilemma in society” as director Teresa Fester puts it. “I try to find one that has social significance so that we can use the stage to portray a valuable

message through the theatre arts,” said Fester.

Students are happy with the progress of the show. “Right now One Act is headed on an amazing path,” said Taylor Evans. “Everyone is really starting to get into their characters and the set and special effects are really falling into place. I think it’ll be an amazing show.”

The cast and crew are busy preparing for the show. “Right now, we are focusing on creating stage pictures and looking at different options that may work for

a scene,” said Fester. Fester also mentioned how the cast is a big part in developing the scenes.

The biggest challenge seems to be during the actual competition. “There is a 45 minute time limit for setting up and removing the set. If you go over then you are disqualified. So you have to focus on consistency so that you do not go over the time limit,” Fester said.

The actors, costumers, and techies worked hard on this show, according to Fester. One Act is a special time for the cast and crew.

“The techies get the work done while having fun at the same time,” said Mercedes Arnett. “We are really close as a tech group.”

One Act has been an interesting time for the people involved. “One act is exciting because the cast is always so much fun and really bonds throughout the process,” said Evans. “We get to perform together not only as a cast but as an O’Gorman theater family, and I think that’s really special.”

## Students explore medical interests

Madeline Nguyen  
Staff Writer

O’Gorman takes pride in preparing its students for their future, and HOSA, or “Health Occupations Students of America,” opens new doors for people interested in the medical field. Because it is an international after school activity, members from O’Gorman are connected to a large group of other students with similar interests.

“HOSA gives students the opportunity to get a feel for health care occupations such as dentistry, nursing, and so much more,” said freshman Missy Pham. “I hope that I will have some knowledge about the health field and that I will gain fun learning experiences.”

Each school’s team is called a “Chapter,” and all chapters go to the state competition where top placers will proceed to the international tournament. At each competition, students will prove their skills in specific areas such as CPR/ First Aid, Medical Math, and Dental Science. Their tests may include writing and/or performing procedures.

“Our chapter is closely affiliated with a charity organization called America’s Tooth Fairy,” said senior Hank Freese, one of the group leaders. “The charity collects and donates dental supplies to kids in poverty, along with educating them on how to maintain good dental health.” O’Gorman’s chapter has been the number one donator of dental supplies to America’s Tooth Fairy in the country for the past three years, according to Freese.

The group also brings in speakers involved in the health field.

“We’ve only had one speaker so far, a dentist named Justin Nichols,” said HOSA director Mrs. Beth Odenbach. “It is important that students know there is more to the health field than doctors, nurses, and PAs. We will probably have more speakers after the state competition.”

The team hopes to send students to the international competition, which will be held in Orlando, Florida.

## Students stand up against smoking

Caleb Impehoven  
Staff Writer

O’Gorman High School continues to impact the community of Sioux Falls through the involvement of its students.

Taylor Promes, a senior O’Gorman student, spoke at the December city council meeting on behalf of O’Gorman High School and the SADD (Students Against Destructive Decisions) group.

On Sept. 20, 2016, the city of Sioux Falls proposed a policy that would ban any form of tobacco on all city property. The initially proposed measure would not only mean smokeless government buildings and parking lots, but parks, schools, libraries and properties such as the Denny Sanford Premier Center and the surrounding facilities would also be impacted by the measure.

This proposal would have prevented cases of second-hand smoking and would send a clear message that smoking is a destructive habit. Sioux Falls would have been the sec-

ond city in the state of South Dakota to have this type of measure. Milbank, S.D. passed a similar ordinance in 2014.

Councilor Christine Erickson put forth an amendment to the proposed measure that only bans smoking around “youth activities: activities in which the intended participants are those under 18 years of age.”

Although the motion passed 6-2, Mayor Mike Huether felt the ordinance wasn’t broad enough, stating, “To be open and honest, I hate smoking. It killed my dad. This new ordinance simply does not go far enough. It is not just youth that are impacted by the devastating effects of tobacco. The citizens of Sioux Falls were certainly ready to tackle this.” Even without Huether’s signature, the amended ordinance went into effect on Jan. 16, 2017.

The O’Gorman SADD group consists of nearly 50 juniors and seniors making students aware of all kinds of destructive decisions and the consequences.

Their focuses in terms of destructive de-

cisions are primarily seatbelt safety, drinking and driving, marijuana and tobacco smoking, vaping, and suicide.

SADD students also give presentations to the 4th, 5th, and 6th grade classes at SFCS Elementary Schools to instill a healthy mindset in youth early on.

They also organize school-wide activities and events such as Rock The Belt, Red Ribbon Week, Kick Butts Day, and National Alcohol Awareness month, the last of which is coming up in April.

Taylor Promes has been a member of O’Gorman’s SADD group for two years. She feels it is a very important group because they talk about issues that don’t often get talked about on a regular basis. She states that participation in SADD is a “constant reminder to make good decisions.”

Several other O’Gorman students sympathize with Taylor’s decision to stand with this bill. “I think [the bill] is a good idea...because of how harmful the smoke of tobacco can be,” said junior T.J. Ripperda.

# School marks decade since construction

Nicolette Boyum  
Co-Editor

As O’Gorman High School approaches 10 years post-construction, the *Knight Scroll* looks back at the journey to the O’Gorman of today.

Cathedral High School was nearing full capacity in the late 1950s when Bishop Lambert Hoch decided that Sioux Falls needed a new Catholic high school.

He began working on plans to build O’Gorman in an alfalfa field on the southwestern border of Sioux Falls. The move was controversial, seeing as it was seemingly located in the middle of nowhere, but the Catholic community supported their Bishop.

On Sept. 7, 1961, O’Gorman High School first opened its doors to around 550 students along with five priests, 18 nuns, six teachers, and Fr. Howard Carroll as principal.

In 1991, the Sioux Falls Catholic School System was formed in coalition with all the parishes within the city. The original six

schools determined a core curriculum, budgeting, and other programs to ensure unity throughout Catholic education

As the years passed and classes graduated, O’Gorman’s original school stood as the structure to students’ learning. Many parents and even grandparents of current students flooded those halls as they fulfilled their education, but the wear and tear of supporting thousands began to show on the 45 year old building.

In 2006, the decision was made to reconstruct the school. Construction began in December 2007 with the demolition of several sections of the old building.

From day one, teachers were having to relocate their classrooms and students were distracted by the noises of construction.

“There was often a lot of commotion outside, in the early stages, that intervened with classes,” said Principal Kyle Groos. “But, I think our students and teachers coped very well.”

It wasn’t uncommon for a fire alarm to be triggered, forcing

everyone outside, or loud banging to interrupt lectures or even floors shaking while heavy machinery worked outside.

Once in January of 2009, the entire school had to evacuate outside into freezing cold temperatures after a construction worker accidentally set off an alarm.

“There were lots of loud noises, thuds, and shaking. The projector screen would shake while trying to do powerpoint notes,” said Mrs. Julie Benson. “My dad was a contractor, so I grew up with construction noises. They were second nature to me, but most students got used to it as time went on.

To connect the old and new school, an enclosed hallway was built for easy transportation.

“It became an aviary as we had birds flying high overhead in the makeshift hallway,” said Mr. Leo Lorang. “I remember assisting in removing a bat which was sleeping on a wall outside the library.”

By February 2009, construction of the three main academic wings had concluded. Construction crews then began to focus

their work solely inside so that by fall, most teachers would be able to move into their new classrooms.

“When we first moved into our classrooms we did not have carpets laid because the cement had not cured sufficiently to allow for carpeting right away,” said Lorang. “We also just had our turf installed on the football field that summer, so at the Homecoming Variety Show the comment was made, ‘Only at O’Gorman would the football field be carpeted before the classrooms.’”

By April of 2010, construction began in the cafeteria and performing arts center (PAC).

There were four stages to construction in the cafeteria that lasted over an extended period of time, which would leave a majority of the original cafeteria intact.

The economic recession slowed construction on the PAC, but by 2010, the school was able to start the multi-million dollar project.

“It was important for us to build a performing arts center

that was state of the art,” said Groos.

The PAC stepped up from the old auditorium’s 600 seats to 1000 in the new facility. It provided ample dressing rooms and storage to support larger productions and host the annual statewide one act.

In the process of building, it was announced that the theatre would be named after Dr. Tom and Penny Lorang.

“I think most, if not all, of the staff that worked with Tom saw it as an appropriate honor,” said L. Lorang. “We recognized the commitment and service he gave as the first lay principal of O’Gorman, and then as the driving force in combining our city Catholic schools into one system as superintendent.”

The school was officially completed in spring of 2012, ready to host whole new generations of students for years to come.

“I believe your environment changes how you learn and grow,” said junior Deja Vu. “So, I feel very blessed to go to such a beautiful school.”

#1

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January 2008. Demolition begins on the old school building. The library and adjoining classrooms had to be demolished for construction to begin on the new K and G-wings.



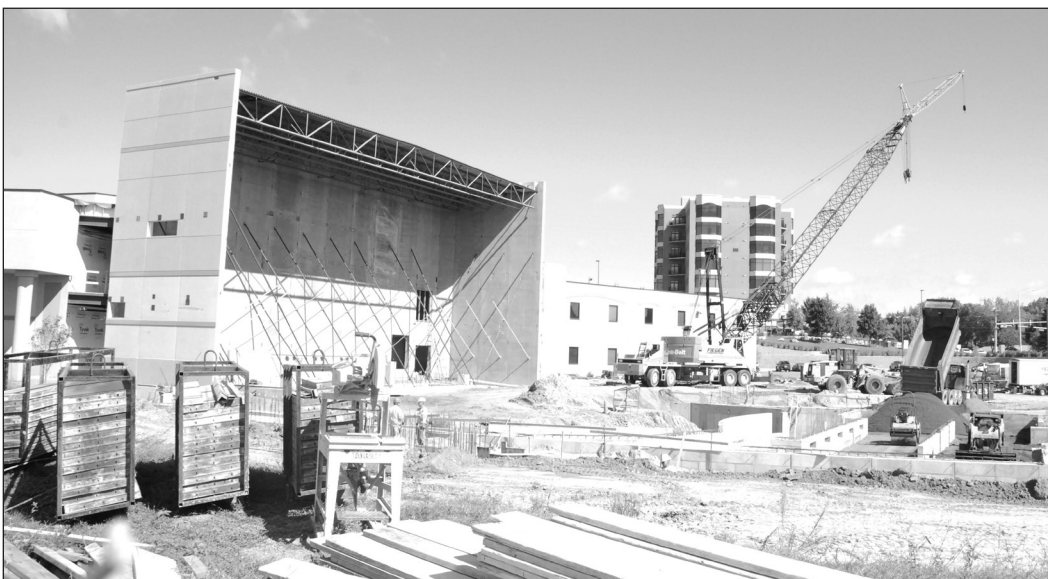
April 2008. A construction worker fastens one of the walls to the new K-wing. The walls arrived pre-fabricated.



July 2008. Workers install support beam framework for O-wing. Both G-wing and K-wing would be ready to open in the fall of 2008 with O-wing opening in February 2009.



April 2009. Construction continues on the foyer area. Pictured is the stairway near the main entrance.



September 2010. The initial framework is erected for the new performing arts center.



October 2010. With the outside walls in place, construction crews could focus efforts on the inside of the performing arts center.



## Knights focused as team advances

Elle Hove  
Holly Tofte

It's been a fast start for the boys basketball team this year as they push just past the half-way point of their season. They currently sit at 8-3 with losses to a very talented IMG team out of Florida, Minneapolis North, and Rapid City Stevens.

Coach Derek Robey says that the players have come together as a true team.

Early in the season the team had to deal with the challenge of staying healthy.

"Many of the guys have had to deal with being sick and missing practices or games because of it," said senior JP Costello.

Costello is happy about how the season has gone so far. "I'm proud of how we don't really panic during games when things aren't going our way, yet we find a way to stay calm and do what we need to do to win."

For now the team's attention is on the second half of the season and the challenges that come along with it. "We must get better day by day and win it all in the end," said junior Emmanuel Tor.

The Knights will have to fight through a difficult district to make it to the state tournament. "Time will tell. Our district is loaded and we know we'll have to play well to have success," said Robey.



TAYLOR HOUSTON / KNIGHT SCROLL

Senior TJ Scheafer wrestles his Washington opponent. The Knights won the city championship.

## Knights win city, set sights on state

Taylor Houston  
Staff Writer

The O'Gorman wrestling team has made major strides this year as they have taken down city rivals and become a key competitor at the state level.

As of now, the wrestling has had 18 meets/duals. At every meet the team has had competitors place: Aaron Ideker, Tight Hight, Jon Binstock and T.J. Sheaffer are some of the most common names that are ranked in the top eight of their flight.

"Wrestling is so different from every other sport," said junior Kenley Lamberty. "It's just

you and your opponent on the mat, but the team is on the sidelines cheering you on despite the outcome."

The Knights are continuing to make strides as a force in the city. This year alone the team has defeated two teams that beat the Knights last year - Washington and Roosevelt.

The team has grown by challenging themselves each day in the wrestling room. That growth has shown at meets.

"O'Gorman Wrestling is finally making it's place on the map," said head coach Matt Lynch. "The Catholic schools

system as a whole is becoming more active every year."

As of now the team is number one in the Sioux Falls Schools.

"This year I am hoping to take five to eight guys to state," said Lynch "I think this year we can hopefully get some guys to place."

The wrestlers will have meets in Yankton and Madison to finish off the regular season. They will then compete at the region tournament at West Central on Feb. 18.

The team is looking forward to the state tournament. The tournament will be held Feb. 24-25 in Sioux Falls.

## Gymnasts optimistic as season continues

Maggie Derner  
Bella Marino

Despite some obstacles that may have slowed them down, the Lady Knight Gymnasts are looking to qualify for state.

The beginning of the season has been tough because of injuries and illnesses.

"The injuries as well as illnesses have not allowed us to compete or practice to our full potential," said head coach Skye Bork.

Although they have had these issues, Coach Bork believes that going forward the talented group of gymnasts has the ability to challenge their top three competitors: Mitchell, Watertown and Rapid City.

"Our team has been doing really great this year and with hard work I think we can make it to state," said senior gymnast Kenley Cotter. The varsity gymnastics team consists of eighth graders from O'Gorman Junior High all the way up to the two seniors - Kenley Cotter and Callie DeWitt.

Cotter says even though the ages range so much, it is very easy bonding with the team because they have been together so long.

Building relationships is an important part of a sport, especially gymnastics. "I have made so many new relationships this year especially with the younger girls," said freshman varsity gymnast, Ava Manning.

## Lady Knights face tough competition

Nicolette Boyum  
Co-Editor

After a seesaw start to the season, the Lady Knights are looking to bounce back. Led by seniors Sebastian Akoi and Kendyl Kreber, O'Gorman sits at a 6-8 record, with four losses having been decided by 3 or less points.

They started with an 0-2 record until a 43-38 win over the Watertown Arrows. A loss to Western Christian at the Sanford Pentagon set up for a short two game winning streak, during which they blew away the Waconia Wildcats 57-22.

At Sioux Falls Washington, O'Gorman lost 43-41. The Lady Knights started off with just eight points at under two minutes in the second quarter but would go on to double their score before half, making it 21-16.

"I think what we've been able to do this year is remain confident in our game," said sophomore

Awoti Akoi. "It has helped us to improve and move on from losses."

The Lady Knights would go on to lose to undefeated St. Thomas More 43-24 but recover with a 31-28 win over Yankton.

"We are striving for consistency in our play," said coach Kent Kolsrud. "And to continue to push our game to the next level."

The Lady Knights traveled to Rapid City on January 20. They split games over the weekend with Rapid City Stevens and Central.

O'Gorman hopes to boost their performance in the final four regular season games, in which they face city rivals Roosevelt and Washington.

"We want to improve through the season and be playing our best basketball at the end of February and into district tournaments," said Kolsrud.

The Lady Knights' next game is Feb. 9 against Sioux Falls Roosevelt at the Sanford Pentagon.



KNIGHT SCROLL

Senior Ashlee Beacom dribbles against a Rapid City Stevens defender. The Lady Knights lost 49-35.



Who do you think will win the Super Bowl?



"I hate to say it, but the Patriots."  
- Julia Baker



"I don't really watch sports, so I don't care."  
- Lucas Kneip



"The Vikings"  
- Gabbi Holbert



"The Falcons"  
- Josh Stork



"Patriots. Take it to the bank."  
- Mr. Jeffrey Baustian

Top Ten Super Bowl Snacks

- 1. Pigs in a Blanket
- 2. Pizza Rolls
- 3. Chicken Wings
- 4. Bacon Wrapped Smokies
- 5. Nachos
- 6. Tater Tots/French Fries
- 7. Potato Skins
- 8. Onion Rings
- 9. Mixed Tropical Fruit
- 10. Garlic Bread



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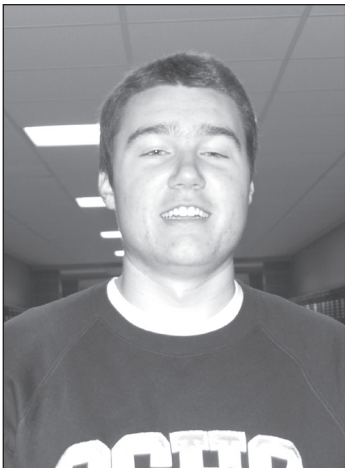
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Students: Don't stress over college planning

Take time to enjoy school, make memories, enjoy all life has to offer as young adults

Max Stenson  
Co-Editor

Many high school students worry about college. There is a seemingly endless list of tasks to perform on a routine basis, such as deciding whether or not to take AP and dual credit classes, deciding what schools to visit, studying for the ACT, and earning good grades throughout all four years of high school. That is only half the battle, though. In addition to the day-to-day tasks, a lot of stress can also be attributed to choosing which schools to apply to, and finally, which college you will choose to attend. It is no wonder students can feel overwhelmed about the college process. However, the best thing one can do when it comes to the college process is to remember that we are just in high school, and there is much more to high school than constantly worrying about college. I have been worried about college since the end of eighth grade. Yes, I started worrying about post-high school plans before I even got to high school. And now that I am a senior with only three months until I graduate, I look back and realize just how unnecessary all of the worrying was. The worst part about excessively stressing out about col-



Max Stenson

lege during high school is that you are not able to live in the moment; you end up not enjoying high school to the fullest extent possible. High school should be a time in your life filled with laughter and lasting memories, and the time where you can enjoy the perfect balance of independence and not yet having all the responsibilities of an adult. O'Gorman's academic environment is very competitive among students. There are frequent discussions about who has the highest GPA or who scored highest on the ACT. While academic performance is important when it comes to college admissions, your life is not over if you do not have a 4.0 GPA or a high ACT score. While it is true that you

may not be able to get into your "dream" school or an Ivy League college with lower grades, that certainly does not mean that you will fail in life, which some students incorrectly assume. In fact, there is a virtually endless number of people who did not attend a prestigious college - or college at all - that are still extremely successful. For example, Ev Williams, co-founder of Twitter, went to the University of Nebraska-Lincoln. Tom Brokaw, former NBC Nightly News anchor and Emmy award-winning journalist, graduated from the University of South Dakota. The intent of this editorial is not to give you reasons to stop trying in high school. Nor am I claiming that the college process is easy and worry-free. The reality is that there is a lot that needs to be done throughout the college process, and it is also important to always strive for academic improvement. There is a limit, however, and it is easy to push yourself past this limit and into a vicious cycle of exhausting yourself all while forgetting to truly enjoy high school. To quote a famous theologian, the single best thing you can do when you begin to feel overwhelmed about doing well in school and getting into college is "pray, and let God worry."

# ***SDSU by the numbers***



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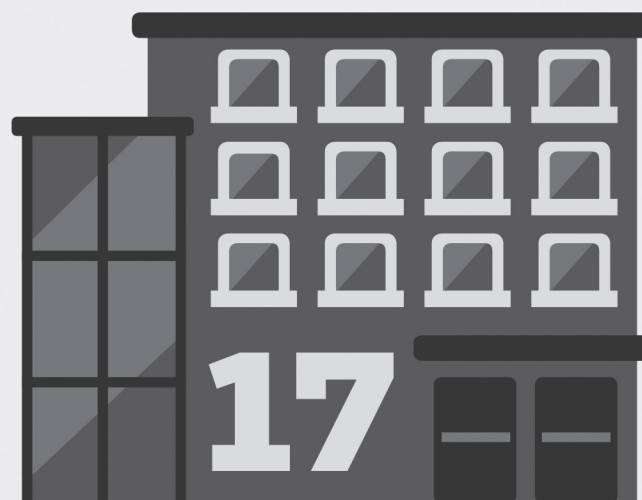
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